



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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District Woman Pleads Guilty to Assaulting Two-Year-Old Child Who Was Supposed To Be Under Her Care - Defendant Delayed Medical Treatment, Tried to Thwart Criminal Investigation -

WASHINGTON - Kimberly McCowan Williams, 52, has pled guilty to charges stemming from her abuse of a two-year-old girl under her care and her effort to thwart the subsequent investigation of her criminal behavior, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced today.

Williams, of Washington, D.C., pled guilty on May 9, 2011 in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia to charges of first degree cruelty to children, attempted second degree cruelty to children, and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. The Honorable Robert I. Richter scheduled sentencing for August 12, 2011. Williams faces up to 16 years in prison.

According to evidence presented at the plea hearing, Williams was babysitting the two-year-old girl on September 20, 2009, at the defendant's home in the 200 block of M Street SW. At approximately 8 a.m., the child accidentally picked up a cup of bleach that was in the bathroom and spilled it on her face. When the child moved her body in pain, she knocked over some glass items in the bathroom. Seeing the broken items, the defendant angrily retrieved a belt and used it to repeatedly strike the little girl throughout her body.

Williams did not seek medical attention for the bleach burns on the child's face and in the child's eyes or for the bruises that were left on the child's body from the beating. She called a poison control center approximately eight hours after the assault and provided false information to the operator. In addition, for many hours Williams ignored telephone calls from the girl's mother. The defendant's delay in seeking medical treatment for the child created further harm. Finally, at 9:10 p.m., the girl's mother took the child to Children's National Medical Center. Fortunately, the child has suffered no permanent injuries as a result of the accident and attack.

After Williams returned the child to the mother, and for the next several days, Williams kept her own daughter out of school, and encouraged her daughter to lie to the police, for the purpose of thwarting the investigation of her behavior.

In announcing the guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Machen praised lead Detective Kenneth Carter from the Metropolitan Police Department's Youth Investigations Division, Child Sexual Abuse Unit. Detective Carter single-handedly and tirelessly handled all aspects of the investigation of the defendant's abuse to the child and her subsequent obstruction of justice.

U.S. Attorney Machen also recognized the assistance of those who worked on the case from the U.S. Attorney's Office, including Intelligence Officers Shannon Alexis and Lawrence Grasso; Victim Witness Advocate Veronica Vaughan; Paralegals Kristy Penny and Joyce Arthur, and Legal Assistants Tanisha Nelson and Ashley Patterson. Finally, he recognized Assistant U.S. Attorney Bridgette Tillman, who investigated the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Sharon Marcus-Kurn, who prosecuted the case.

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